

words of general use ; words employed chiefly in poetry ; words obsolete ; words which are admitted only by particular writers, yet not in themselves improper ; words used only in burlesque writing ; and words impure and barbarous.

WORDS of general use will be known by having no sign of particularity, and their various senses will be supported by authorities of all ages.

THE words appropriated to poetry will be distinguished by some mark prefixed, or will be known by having no authorities but those of poets.

OF antiquated or obsolete words, none will be inserted but such as are to be found in authors who wrote since the accession of Elizabeth, from which we date the golden age of our language ; and of these many might be omitted, but that the reader may require, with an appearance of reason, that no difficulty should be left unresolved in books which he finds himself invited to read, as confessed and established models of style. These will be likewise pointed out by some note of exclusion, but not of disgrace.

THE words which are found only in particular books, will be known by the single name of him that has used them ; but such will be omitted, unless either their propriety, elegance, or force, or the reputation

putation of their authors affords some extraordinary reason for their reception.

WORDS used in burlesque and familiar compositions, will be likewise mentioned with their proper authorities, such as *dudgeon* from Butler, and *leasing* from Prior, and will be diligently characterised by marks of distinction.

BARBAROUS or impure words and expressions, may be branded with some note of infamy, as they are carefully to be eradicated wherever they are found ; and they occur too frequently even in the best writers. As in Pope,

-----in endless error *hurl'd*.

'Tis *these* that early taint the female soul.

In Addison,

Attend to what a *lesser* muse indites.

And in Dryden,

A dreadful quiet felt, and *worser* far  
Than arms-----

If this part of the work can be well performed, it will be equivalent to the proposal made by Boileau to the academicians, that they should review all their polite writers, and correct such impurities as might be found